

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 077871

EXDIS, TOSEC 096

WHITE HOUSE PASS PALM SPRINGS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE CINCPAC FROM PHNOM PENH APR 7

QUOTE S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6038

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, CB, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 7 MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT

1. MORNING OF APRIL 7 I MET WITH ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY. I REPEATED WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM IN THE PAST, THAT IT IS UP TO THE GKR TO DECIDE WHAT OFFERS TO MAKE TO THE OTHER SIDE. IF GKR SEEKS U.S. HELP IN COMMUNICATING, WE ARE PREPARED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT ANY PROPOSALS ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE OTHER SIDE.

2. SAUKHAM KHOY THANKED ME FOR THIS INFORMATION. HE SAID THAT LONG BORET IS EXPECTED BACK THIS AFTERNOON AND GKR WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT. HE THINKS THAT WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS GKR WILL EITHER TRY TO GET A CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE THROUGH OUR CHANNELS TO THE OTHER SIDE OR GO PUBLIC. KHMERS THEMSELVES WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO AND HOW.

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3. HE THEN ASKED ME WHAT WE WOULD DO FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY IN THE EVENT THAT "THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN." I SAID THAT WE WOULD TRY TO TAKE CARE OF AS MANY KEY KHMER LEADERS AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US TO CHOOSE AMONG THEM AND THE KHMER LEADERSHIP SHOULD MAKE THIS DECISION. I SAID THAT I WAS STAYING HERE FOR THE PRESENT AND SO ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO ARE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THE KHMER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. I SUGGESTED THAT EVERY MORNING AT 6:30 HE SEND AN AIDE TO MY RESIDENCE IN CASE THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE WORKING (AS WAS THE CASE THIS MORNING) AND I NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM. I SAID I HAD SUGGESTED THE SAME PROCEDURE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER SO THAT IN THE EVENT OF ENEMY SHELLING AND THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM STOPS FUNCTIONING, THE GKR AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY REMAINS IN CLOSE CONTACT. HE AGREED TO SEND A MAJOR (HIS SON) EVERY MORNING TO MY HOUSE IN CASE I NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM AND CANNOT REACH HIM BY TELEPHONE.

4. COMMENT. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT SAUKHAM KHOY IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE PRESENT MILITARY LULL IS DECEPTIVE AND THE KC ARE MERELY MASSING THEIR FORCES FOR THE FINAL ATTACK. HE IS AWARE THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT ON THE KHMER REPUBLIC. TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT HE EVER MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO FLEE THE COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY IN THE EVENT OF A COLLAPSE.

DEAN
UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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